

## Message Text

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ACTION SCS-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 SCA-01 DHA-02 L-03 H-02

SSO-00 USIE-00 PRS-01 PA-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SS-15

/051 W

-----051488 231140Z /10

O R 222240Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2934

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMCONSUL RECIFE

AMCONSUL SALVADOR

UNCLAS BRASILIA 6141

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CARR, CGEN, SHUM, BR

SUBJ: CAPUANO VISA DENIAL

REF: (A) RECIFE 0156 (NOTAL), (B) RECIFE 0153 (NOTAL),  
(C) ARENALES-ZIMMERMANN TELECONS JULY 22, 1977

1. BRASILIA, RIO AND SAO PAULO PRESS JULY 22 CARRIED SUBSTANTIAL COVERAGE OF CAPUANO'S JULY 21 DEPARTURE FROM BRAZIL AFTER HIS APPLICATION FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE WAS DENIED (REF A). COVERAGE STRESSED HIS WORK AMONG POOR IN RECIFE, AND RECALLED HIS MAY 15 ARREST AND JUNE MEETING WITH MRS. CARTER.

2. IN ADDITION TO INFO REPORTED RECIFE 156, PRESS REPORTED THAT CAPUANO'S TOURIST VISA EXPIRED ON JUNE 20 AND HE HAD REQUESTED AUTHORITIES TO POSTPONE ORDERING HIM TO LEAVE COUNTRY PENDING DECISION ON HIS APPLICATION FOR PERMANENT VISA. FEDERAL POLICE TURNED DOWN HIS APPLICATION, REPORTEDLY STATING THAT HIS REQUEST "WAS NOT CONVENIENT TO THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF BRAZIL." THEY INFORMED MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THIS DECISION ON JULY 14 AND CAPUANO, WHO WAS TRAVELING AT THE TIME, WAS GIVEN EIGHT UNCLASSIFIED

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DAYS TO EXIT BRAZIL.

3. CAPUANO DID NOT COMMENT ON DENIAL, SAYING SIMPLY THAT HE WAS SAD TO HAVE TO LEAVE BRAZIL. DOM IVO LORSCHETER, SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF BRAZILIAN BISHOPS (CNBB), TOLD O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, HOWEVER, THAT GOVERNMENT'S DECISION WAS "VERY LAMENTABLE." DOM ALUISIO LORSCHETER, PRESIDENT OF THE

CNBB (ALTHOUGH NO RELATION TO DOM IVO) SIDESTEPED PRESS QUERY ON POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CAPUANO'S DENIAL AND THE PENDING EXPULSION OF SWISS PRIEST ROMAIN ZUFFEREY (PARA. 3, RECIFE 156).

4. ESTADO ALSO REPORTED THAT SPOKESMAN OF DEPARTMENT OF FEDERAL POLICE (DPF) OFFICE IN RECIFE SAID DECISION ON DENIAL WAS MADE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL PROCEDURES, IN DPF HEADQUARTERS IN JUSTICE MINISTRY IN BRASILIA. IN BRASILIA, A DPF SOURCE REPORTEDLY TOLD ESTADO THAT DENIAL WAS DIRECTLY RELATED TO "REPERCUSSIONS" FROM CAPUANO'S ARREST LAST MAY (I.E., PUBLICITY AND, PRESUMABLY, MEETING WITH MRS. CARTER). PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SPOKESMAN COL. TOLEDO CAMARGO REPORTEDLY TOLD O ESTADO THAT "NOT EVEN BRAZIL'S DESIRE FOR A FAVORABLE IMAGE ABROAD COULD BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN BRAZIL'S NATIONAL INTERESTS." STATING THAT GOB CONSIDERED IT HAD EXERCISED AN "ACT OF SOVEREIGNTY," ESTADO ADDED THAT CAMARGO ALSO SAID THAT BRAZIL DESIRES A "CORRECT" IMAGE ABROAD, WITHIN CONTEXT OF ABSOLUTE FIDELITY TO ITS NATIONAL REALITY\* THUS; ESTADO CONTINUED, BRAZIL COULD NOT FORCE AN EXTERNAL IMAGE BETTER THAN THAT WHICH IN FACT EXISTED WITHIN BRAZIL ITSELF.

5. COMMENT: CAPUANO'S REQUEST FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE AND ITS EVENTUAL DENIAL FOLLOWED NORMAL BRAZILIAN LEGAL PRACTICE. MISSION WAS NOT NOTIFIED BY BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES OF THE REFUSAL, NOR HAS IT EVER BEEN BRAZILIAN PRACTICE TO NOTIFY FOREIGN MISSIONS WHEN SUCH DENIALS OCCUR. (FYI. EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION HAD SIMILAR UNCLASSIFIED

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RECENT CASE OF DENIAL OF PERMANENT VISA TO US CITIZEN. CITIZEN IN QUESTION WAS GRANTED POSTPONEMENT PENDING DECISION ON APPLICATION; WHEN VISA APPLICATION WAS DENIED, CITIZEN WAS GIVEN EIGHT DAYS TO EXIT BRAZIL. POST WAS INFORMED AT THAT TIME THAT EIGHT DAYS IS NORMAL TIME-PERIOD GIVEN A FOREIGNER TO EXIT COUNTRY UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. END FYI.)

6. FEW PRESS QUERIES--NONE OF WHICH HAVE DWELT ON CAPUANO'S MEETING WITH MRS. CARTER--HAVE BEEN LOW KEY AND EASILY HANDLED BY NON-COMMITTAL MISSION RESPONSES.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 77 RECIFE 156, 77 RECIFE 153  
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**SAS ID:** 1782885  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CAPUANO VISA DENIAL  
**TAGS:** CARR, CGEN, SHUM, BR, (CAPUANO, THOMAS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/cfc0ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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